

REMARKS

Claims 1-8, 10-19, and 21-22 stand rejected as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,167,383 (Henson) in view of the Ebuild web site (Ebuild '01) and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,070,149 (Tavor) and also in view of ASHRAE '93. Claims 9 and 20 stand rejected as being unpatentable in view of the foregoing 4-way combination of references and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,134,557 (Freeman). Reconsideration of the rejections is solicited in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 4, 5, 8, 13, 15, 16 and 19 have been canceled.

Applicant is appreciative of constructive suggestions made by the Examiner for facilitating the prosecution of the present invention. The suggestions were made during telephone call initiated by applicant with an expectation of gaining better insight regarding the issues set forth in the Office Action. Applicant has amended the claims and believes he has incorporated some of the key suggestions made by the Examiner.

Claim 1 is directed to a computer-based method for providing guidance to a purchaser for selecting an appliance that requires venting of air relative to a building structure where the appliance is located. The guidance comprises recommendations that take into account physical constraints regarding an external venting structure for the appliance. At least some of the venting structure is disposed through the building structure. That is, a venting structure that may be constructed through the building structure (e.g., walls, ceiling, etc.) for routing airflow from the appliance. Claim 1 recites that a set of prompts is provided to elicit information from the purchaser regarding vent parameters indicative of the physical constraints for the venting structure for the appliance. The information supplied by the purchaser is processed relative to vent requirements data for the appliance of interest to determine a recommendation regarding suitability of the external venting structure relative to the appliance of interest. The recommendation is selected from at least one of the following:

1) indicating changes to be made to the external venting structure that would make the external venting structure suitable for meeting the air flow requirements of the appliance of interest; and 2) indicating to the purchaser whether or not the external venting structure presently meets one of a plurality of predefined air flow ranges relative to the appliance of interest, each of said air flow ranges indicative of a predefined distinct condition of venting for the appliance of interest. Examples of a predefined distinct condition may include a fully acceptable venting condition, a marginally acceptable venting condition, or an unacceptable venting condition.

It is respectfully submitted that the various applied references, singly or in combination, fail to teach or suggest the above-mentioned structural and/or operational relationships, and, consequently, such references fail to render obvious claim 1. Since each of the dependent claims from independent claim 1 includes the structural and/or operational relationships respectively recited in such independent claim, it is also respectfully submitted that the applied references, singly or in combination, also fail to obviate each of such dependent claims.

Claim 11 is directed to a computer-based system for providing guidance to a purchaser for selecting an appliance that requires venting. For the reasons discussed above, it is respectfully submitted that the applied references, singly or in combination, also fail to render obvious claim 11. Since each of the dependent claims from independent claim 11 includes the structural and/or operational relationships respectively recited in such independent claim, it is also respectfully submitted that such references, singly or in combination, also fail to obviate each of such dependent claims.

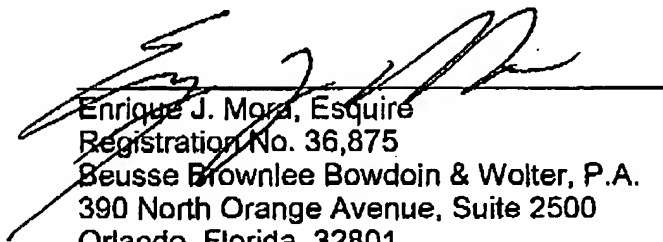
In connection with either dependent claim 9 or 20, it is respectfully submitted that Freeman fails to overcome the basic deficiencies of the four references applied to reject the respective parent claims. Thus, Freeman and the 4-way combination of references fail to render unpatentable either of claims 9 or 20.

It is respectfully submitted that each of the claims pending in this application recites patentable subject matter and it is further submitted that such claims comply with all statutory requirements and thus each of such claims should be allowed.

The applicant appreciates the Examiner's efforts for conducting a thorough examination, and cordially invites the Examiner to call the undersigned attorney if there are any outstanding items that may be resolved via telephone conference.

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Respectfully submitted,



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